

# UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS

## At a Glance

Number of under-  
ground storage tanks  
active tanks . . . 13,000  
closed tanks . . . 31,700

Underground storage  
tanks with:  
contamination . . . 11,452  
remediated . . . . 8,666  
long-term cleanup. 392

UST inspections  
1995 . . . . . 5,614  
1999 . . . . . 2,481

UST violations  
1995 . . . . . 1,241  
1999 . . . . . 112

## Indicator 12. Underground Storage Tanks

**Background** Underground petroleum and hazardous chemical storage tanks began to be regulated in Kentucky in 1986. These tanks can leak and pose pollution threats to drinking water supplies and to the environment

There are 46,407 underground storage tanks (USTs) currently registered in Kentucky. As of February 2001, an estimated 13,068 tanks are in active use, 1,584 are in temporary closure (have not fully met closure and cleanup requirements), and 31,755 have been permanently closed in accordance with state regulations. It is estimated that there are thousands of tanks in Kentucky at abandoned gas stations and other locations that have not been registered.

**Goal** Oversee the permanent closure, investigation and remediation of UST sites and ensure compliance for all active underground storage tanks for leak detection, spill prevention, overfill prevention and corrosion protection requirements.

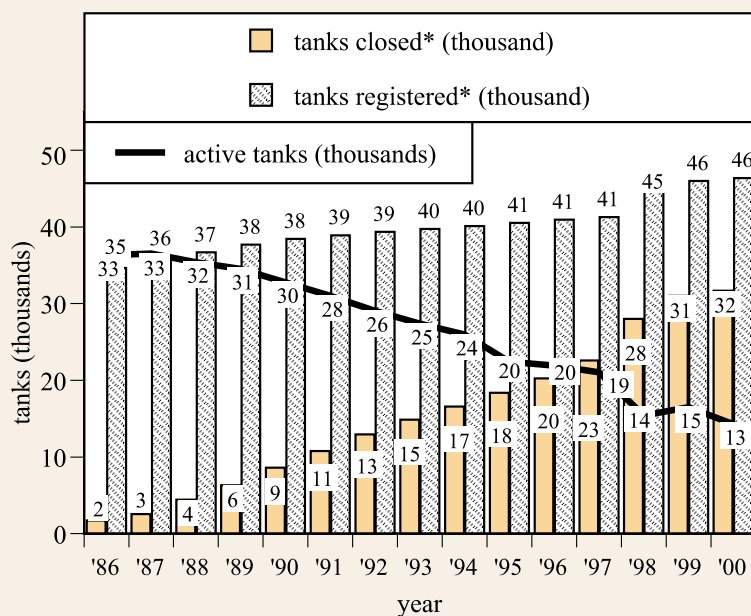
**Progress** As of January 2001, 90 percent of the 13,068 active registered USTs met release detection rules and 98 percent met the overfill, corrosion protection and spill prevention requirements as specified in federal and state laws. This is a significant improvement since November 1998, when 45 percent of the active tanks did not meet the tank rules. All tanks in Kentucky that failed to meet the tank upgrade rules as required by Dec. 22, 1998 were assessed penalties, resulting in the highest penalty collection levels (in 1999) since EQC began tracking UST enforcement actions.

As of January 2001, 11,452 UST facilities had performed investigation and corrective action activities. Of these, 8,666 UST sites have been remediated. Most UST sites simply require the removal of soil to address contamination problems. However, some UST sites require additional remediation actions to address groundwater contamination. Currently, 392 UST sites are in long-term corrective action. These sites require actions such as the pump and treatment of groundwater or bioremediation to address contamination problems.

In 1990, Kentucky established the Petroleum Storage Tank Assurance Fund. The fund was

created to help UST owners and operators comply with federally mandated financial responsibility requirements and to reimburse owners and operators for eligible costs of corrective actions related to leaking USTs. The fund's revenues are generated primarily through a fee of 1.4 cents per gallon of motor fuel sold in the state. As of December 2000, the fund has obligated \$276.4 million for site investigations, tank removals and remedial activities at 4,082 UST facilities. The fund has processed 19,256 payment claims resulting in the reimbursements of \$213.7 million to UST owners and operators. Currently, 460 applications for financial assistance amounting to \$31.4 million are pending approval. The average cost of a UST cleanup has been \$63,108 per site. There are 2,747 UST project fund cleanups currently underway.

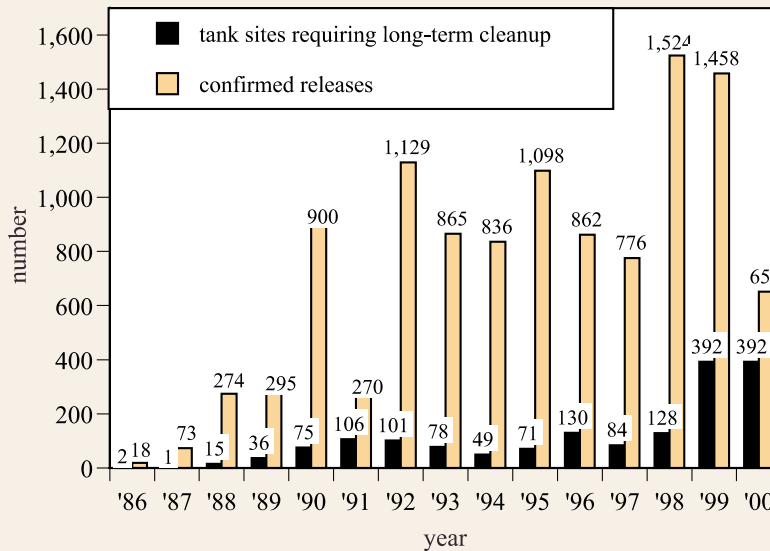
Measure 1. Underground Storage Tanks in Kentucky



# WASTE MANAGEMENT

## UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS

**Measure 2. Underground Storage Tank Contamination Incidents in Kentucky**



### Measures - notes and sources

**Measure 1.** \*Cumulative total to date for tanks closed and registered. Source: Ky. Division of Waste Management.

**Measure 2.** Sites with groundwater and/or soil contamination. Confirmed releases are defined as either laboratory or field evidence of contamination. Source: Ky. Division of Waste Management.

**Measure 3.** Penalty dollars represent the amount collected per year. Source: Ky. Division of Waste Management.

**Measure 2. Underground Storage Tank Enforcement Actions in Kentucky**

